

SULLIVAN PROBES WILL DELVE A YEAR

Assembly Extends Committee's
Life and Gets Report of Big
Graft and Waste.

BENSEL REACHES ALBANY

Issues Statement Indicating a
Contest on State Depart-
ment Investigations.

ALBANY, March 5.—Events turning on the Assembly investigation of State departments happened rapidly to-day, chief among them being the extension of the life of the committee by the Assembly for the rest of the year after a preliminary report had been submitted showing that "through lack of foresight, political influences and graft, money of the State, to an amount impossible to ascertain accurately, have been wasted or stolen."

The committee's report showed that it is intended to make a thorough examination of State departments with a view to bringing criminal actions and suits to recover stolen State money.

The Democratic majority of the Senate decided not to pass the bill appropriating \$25,000 for the Assembly investigation unless the Senate was represented on the committee. Chairman John L. Sullivan announced that more than one person has offered to defray the expenses of the committee, which probably will reach \$25,000 instead of the \$25,000 asked.

State Engineer John A. Bensen, for whom the committee had been searching for a week, according to Chairman Sullivan, arrived in Albany to-day, and, after a statement denying that he had tried to evade subpoena by the committee, "I am at all times ready and willing to appear before any legally constituted committee and answer to the satisfaction of my official actions," said the State Engineer.

May Test Committee's Authority.

The wording of Mr. Bensen's statement gave rise to the question of whether the proceedings will be instituted to test the right of the Assembly committee to make an investigation of the State departments. The resolution extending the life of the committee provides that it shall investigate any State department if "a majority of the committee believes the public interest requires it."

Assemblyman Horton announced that he would attempt his resolution calling for an investigation of the Legislature to-day, but he said he would call the attention of the Sullivan committee to certain facts in his bill.

Chairman Sullivan of the committee said it had been decided that each member of the committee would do some "cleansing" on his own account. As a starter, the chairman and Progressive Leader Michael Schaepp of New York will try to learn if anything is wrong in State printing.

The committee issued a statement declaring that it "proposes to investigate fully the whole subject of waste, inefficiency and corruption in the Highways Department, examining all highway work of recent years."

"It will finish the work that Hennessy began," says the statement. "It is believed that indictments will follow, and that bond actions will be begun against numerous contractors and State employees who have been defrauded."

Your committee expects to present to you next week certain proposed legislation for the need for the enactment of which is already apparent," the report said. Not a word of opposition was voiced to the passage of the resolution extending the life of the committee.

To Ask Waiver of Bensen.

Counsel John K. Clark of the Sullivan committee announced to-day that State Engineer Bensen would be asked to sign a waiver of immunity before he is allowed to testify. Mr. Bensen refused to sign such a waiver at the John Doe investigation in New York, and it is expected that the Assembly committee's refusal will be the signal for a test of the powers of the committee.

At the conclusion of a conference of Democratic Senators, Majority Leader John F. Murtagh of Elmira issued this statement, explaining the attitude of the Senate Democrats on the Cistina bill:

"The majority of the Senate is as anxious as the Assembly to investigate the accusations against State officials and the workings of State departments are true, but they do not believe that it ought to be merely a partisan investigation to serve only political ends. The Democratic Senators are convinced, as every fair minded man must be, that the action of the Assembly and its committee shows that it was conceived in partisanship."

"The Assembly can be assured that with a committee of equal representation the investigation will be thorough, and that there will be no attempt to obstruct anything of the kind by interfering upon counsel and other investigators. As the Senate has no desire to control these matters."

The recommendations of a legislative committee require the consent of both branches of the Legislature to make them effective. We know of no legislative precedent where an investigating committee was appointed except by the action of both branches of the Legislature. The conference also decided to pass the bills introduced by Senator Herrick proposing to strengthen the corrupt practices act by compelling an affidavit to accompany all statements of campaign expenses and making it a felony for any contractor or other individual to have any interest in State contracts or having direct dealings with the State, to contribute to any campaign fund."

The Senate will add a rider to the Assembly's appropriation bill providing for the appointment of Senators to the investigating committee and send it to the lower house for concurrence. To-night the Assembly leaders said it would be rejected.

KILLS GUILTY OF WIFE MURDER.

Ex-Manufacturer Sentenced to Fifteen Years in Penitentiary.

CHICAGO, March 5.—William Cheney Ellis, at one time a wealthy leather manufacturer of Cincinnati, was found guilty to-night of killing his wife and was sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary. His attorney served notice of an appeal.

The crime was committed in the Hotel Sherman in October, 1913. After domestic differences Mrs. Ellis came to Chicago from Cincinnati to visit relatives. Her husband followed a few days later to seek a reconciliation. After charging his wife with infidelity Ellis shot her and then attempted suicide by opening the arteries of his arm with a penknife.

Evidence at the trial, which has lasted nearly a month, tended to prove that Ellis's suspicions of his wife were unfounded.

SENATOR LOGAN TAKES RECESS.

SENATOR LOGAN, N. J., March 5.—After routine sessions in both branches the Legislature adjourned this afternoon for the week. The House extended its session until late in the afternoon for the introduction of bills. This is the last day for the introduction of bills under the rules adopted at the opening of the session.

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LEADER SMITH SAYS SULZER IS A MENACE

Makes Attack in Assembly on
ex-Governor, Who Called
State Employees Crooks.

FIRE MARSHAL BILL FAILS

It Is Voted to Abolish the De-
partment of Efficiency
and Economy.

ALBANY, March 5.—The Thorne bill abolishing the State Department of Efficiency and Economy was passed by the Assembly to-night by a vote of 93 to 24. Progressives voted with the Republicans for the measure. John H. Delaney is Commissioner of the department.

Just before the bill of Republican Leader Harold J. Hinman abolishing the office of State Fire Marshal failed of passage by a single vote, the Progressives voted with the Democrats to continue the department.

Henry C. Kaepgen of Kings, Progressive, and William Sulzer of New York voted with the Republicans on the fire marshal bill. Two Republicans whose votes would have passed the measure were ill at home. They were Burlington of Kings and Bly of Orange.

Mr. Sulzer said the Department of Efficiency and Economy should be termed the Department of Crooks and Crookedness. "One of the deputies, drawing \$5,000 a year, has a record that if the criminal law were enforced would land him in jail," said the ex-governor. "It is a man who has done a dishonest day's work since he was appointed, but he does the bidding of his master in Fourteenth street. I have reliable information that Delaney tried to get rid of this man, but he went to Fourteenth street and a message to 'keep him' reached Delaney so quick that it made his head swim."

"There was was such an exhibition of waste, graft and political speculation in the United States. I will guarantee to produce an expert accountant at \$50 a day who will go more in thirty days than the whole department has done in a year. This would have been a good department, but it's purpose has been sabotaged, and men have been employed not for efficiency but to testify in favor of men charged with crime."

Democratic Leader Smith's attack on Sulzer was bitter. He said:

"A man who will make such wild statements as have been made here to-day is a menace to society. He is a man who would destroy the very foundation upon which our Government is built. He is worse than an anarchist. He is more dangerous than a man who gets up on the street corners and waves the red flag down."

"And speaking of men whom he terms criminals and those who should be in jail, why he is the very last man on earth who should talk about men who ought to be in jail for what they have done."

Mr. Smith said that the bill creating the Department of Efficiency Department was framed by Sulzer when he was Governor and sent to the Legislature for passage.

"Sulzer was surrounded for twenty years by a ragged, crooked, broken down lot of hangers on," said Mr. Smith, "and it is a wonder he didn't kill every State department with these political crooks."

The Democratic leader denied that the Department of Efficiency and Economy was "loaded down with crooks."

U. S. INVITES HUERTA TO THE HAGUE CONFERENCE

Dictator Solemnly Accepts Offer
Sent From Washington
by Mistake.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—President Huerta of Mexico has again turned the laugh on the State Department.

Great interest was aroused here to-day when despatches from Mexico city announced that the Huerta Government had been included among the Governments to which the United States had sent a circular note in regard to arrangements for the proposed third Hague conference. At the White House it was said that if the Huerta Government had received a copy of the circular note it was through a mistake and it was clearly indicated that the President still maintains that there is no Government in Mexico city to which such a communication could properly be sent by the United States.

The note contained the suggestion that the diplomatic representatives of the various Governments having legations at the Hague serve as an international commission on programme for the third conference in order that arrangements for the conference might be expedited. Foreign diplomats here smiled behind their hands to-day when it became known that Huerta had promptly seized the opportunity again to turn the tables on Washington and had solemnly announced his acceptance of the State Department's proposition. Apparently the State Department will now be in the position of being obliged to refuse to accept the acceptance.

It is understood that Charge O'Shaughnessy delivered the circular note to Huerta Government, having received it with printed instructions such as were sent to all other diplomatic representatives of the United States to the effect that he was to communicate it to the Government to which he is accredited.

DIAS PLANS NEW REVOLUTION

FELIX DIAZ ASKS SUPPORT OF U. S.

Continued from First Page.

A candidate for President at the recent election Diaz polled more votes in the city of Mexico than all the other candidates, which he contends proves conclusively that if he acceded to power he would have the local support of the people at the very outset of his administration.

The financial resources which he expects to command should he embark on the expedition of conquest have been pledged apparently on condition that he can show in advance that he will have the support of the United States by way of immediate recognition should his plan succeed.

It is not known just when Diaz will appear before the Foreign Relations Committee, but it is likely that a special meeting will be called this week.

CARRANZA OFF FOR JUAREZ.

Revolt Leader Is Escorted by Force
of 2,000.

EL PASO, March 5.—Venustiano Carranza, leader of the Constitutionalists of Mexico, left Nogales to-day for Juarez. He is said to be accompanied by 2,000 men. It is explained that this great force is to protect him on the march across country, but for a month it has been persistently remarked in Juarez that when Carranza came he would bring with him enough of his own power to overthrow at least in the border town.

The clerical members of the Carranza household, who left Nogales yesterday for Chihuahua in advance of their chief, are busy to-day arranging offices and places of residence in Juarez for the government of the rebel party. Many homes of Huerta sympathizers, who have sought refuge in the United States, have been confiscated for this purpose.

The Carranza commission appointed to investigate the killing of William S. Benton in Juarez two weeks ago began its investigation this afternoon. As a part of the investigation Benton's body may be exhumed. Three men compose the board of inquiry, Gen. Ramon Fausto, Dr. Miguel Silva and L. C. Miguel Lara. Instructions to the commission were received in El Paso in the following telegram from Nogales, Sonora, addressed to Gen. Fausto:

"This general headquarters is pleased to appoint a special commission with you as president and with Dr. Miguel Silva and L. C. Miguel Lara as members to investigate without further instructions the court-martial and execution in Ciudad Juarez of William S. Benton, and to find any infraction of the law or irregularity that merits the issuance of an order for a new investigation this correspondence will be sufficient to ask the chief of army to send the body for a legal medical examination."

"VENUSTIANO CARRANZA,
"Chief of Constitutional Army."

Chief Witnesses in Chihuahua.

The commissioners will decide whether or not their investigation will take them to Chihuahua, where several witnesses in the case against Benton are now residing, and whether Villa will be asked to testify before the commission. They will also determine whether or not the body of Benton will be exhumed.

All the officers who acted as judges in the trial of Benton are attached to the command of Col. Fidel Avila, in Juarez, so it will be easy to secure their testimony. But the principal witnesses who testified against Benton, and who swore they saw the attack made by the Huertistas upon Villa, are in Chihuahua.

The investigation will be conducted in private and the findings will be reported to Carranza at his headquarters. No definite idea of the length of time it will take to complete the investigation is available and it is possible that Carranza will have arrived in the city before the work of the commission is rendered.

In the meantime Charles Arthur Percival, British Consul at Galveston and chairman of the Anglo-American committee appointed to investigate the death of Benton, the British rancher, was the conclusion drawn from developments in the Mexican situation to-day.

Carranza has appointed an investigating commission of his own, and it became known to-day that American cooperation with this commission will not be invited or permitted. Neither will any commission of American and British representatives be permitted by the Constitutionalists to view the body of Benton, wherever it may be.

Both at the White House and at the office of Secretary Bryan it was denied to-day that the project of the commission has been abandoned. The fact is, however, that the President's position in an official capacity that the commission will ever fulfill its errand, nor that the United States Government will ever make any further progress toward ascertaining the truth in regard to the position of the United States and Great Britain. In other words, the Washington

CARRANZA TO ACT ALONE.

Will Permit No Foreign Inquiry In-
to Benton's Death.

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WINE GROWERS DINE AND DIP.

400 of Them Try 40 Brands and
Praise Moderation.

Four hundred members of the Wine Growers Association dined at the Waldorf last night and sipped forty brands of wine. They expressed the view that moderation reveals a truer self-control than total abstinence and an absolute denial of any of the legitimate pleasures of life smacks somewhat of the abnormal.

William H. McElroy, moderator of the Rev. Maurice H. Harris, rabbi of Temple Israel responded to the toast "Wine and Temperance." He said the wine growers were engaged in a legitimate culture that should not be faulted by asceticism. He thought that those who went to extremes in prohibiting all alcoholic drinks are in themselves intemperate.

Among those present were Fred C. Howe, Rev. E. B. Watson, the Rev. W. A. Watson, Hiram S. Dewey, Judge Otto Rosalsky and Warren W. Foster, Hudson Maxim, Leslie M. Shaw, William H. Page, Capt. Edward Thompson, William J. Healy and Commodore C. C. Brinkhoff.

"Cordelia Blossom" to Be Staged.

Klav & Erlanger and Joseph Brooks are to produce "Cordelia Blossom," a comedy in four acts by George Randolph Chester and Lillian Chester. The play is based on Mr. Chester's "Cordelia Blossom" story taken from the "New York Evening Post" under various titles.

agents believe that their efforts to induce Diaz to modify his declaration that he will not recognize the right of the United States to act for Great Britain will eventually prove successful. They are hoping Carranza not only to modify his policy but in such a way as would be completely satisfactory to the United States and Great Britain.

It is promised by the Constitutionalists that Diaz Carranza will make known the truth in the Benton case regardless of whom the facts may hit.

There is every indication that for the present Carranza's virtual ultimatum in regard to investigations of the Benton case by Great Britain and the United States will be accepted at the State Department. John Bassett Moore, who left the service of the State Department yesterday, made it one of his last official acts to draw up a statement of the position of the United States with regard to what was termed Carranza's "impossible attitude." Whether this attitude will be accepted or not is yet to be seen.

Secretary Bryan said this afternoon that George C. Carothers, who is with Carranza, had not yet made any communication to the rebel chieftain on behalf of the United States. At the White House it was indicated that the President is inclined to the belief that Carranza had undertaken too much in sustaining his position as chief of the revolution and believed that every pressure should be brought upon him until he had modified his attitude.

It became known to-day that the transport Hancock with 400 marines will be sent in New Orleans for an indefinite period in readiness for possible service in Mexico. The marines have been put ashore and quartered in the buildings at New Orleans navy yard.

SAYS U. S. IS RESPONSIBLE.

Russian Paper Regrets Lack of
Initiative in Mexico.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN.
ST. PETERSBURG, March 5.—The semi-official newspaper *Rossia*, commenting on the Benton case in Mexico, condemns the lack of initiative on the part of the United States. It points out that the Monroe Doctrine does not exist in international law, although it is tacitly admitted between the United States and Great Britain.

The paper adds that other countries whose nationals are equally endangered in Mexico will hardly be willing to placate American susceptibilities by recognizing the Monroe Doctrine. The United States, *Rossia* says, is morally if not legally bound to prevent the recurrence of such outrages.

FEDERALS WIN NEAR TORREON.

Huerta Government Says 400 Were
Killed in Battle.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN.
MEXICO CITY, March 5.—The Minister of War reports that there was a terrific fight yesterday between 3,500 rebels under Toribio Ortega, who were advancing from Chihuahua to Torreon, and 1,500 Federals from Torreon under Gen. Ricardo Pena.

The rebels, who were advancing from Chihuahua to Torreon, were now within 16 kilometers from Torreon, where Gen. Pena awaited them. The forces of the Federal commander were in advantageous position.

The fight began at Kavala, the next station south of Escalon, and lasted several hours. The rebels were routed with a loss of 400 killed and a much greater number wounded. The losses of the Federals are not given.

The rebels fled to Escalon, where they entrained back for Chihuahua. President Huerta and all the foreign Ministers arrived here to-day to greet the sincere condolences to Nelson O'Shaughnessy, the American Charge d'Affaires, on the death of his father, Col. James O'Shaughnessy, in New York on Tuesday.

BRYAN STILL OPTIMISTIC.

Has Faith in Carranza and No Fear
of Huerta.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Secretary of State Bryan addressed the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day on the subject of Mexico. He said that despite reports to the contrary, no foreign power had sought to bring "pressure" to bear on the Administration to change its course toward the Mexican situation. He expressed the opinion that Huerta is losing ground, and that the Mexican revolutionists are making progress. He deprecated all talk of intervention and suggested that if the United States went into Mexico it would probably find the country united in defense of the committee primarily to discuss the Almey resolution, which calls on the President to forward to the House all information in his possession bearing on conditions in the southern republic. Mr. Bryan opposed action on that measure. He likewise expressed the hope that all public debate on the Mexican situation would be discouraged in order that the Administration work out the Mexican problem without the embarrassments that would attend partisan discussion of the question in Congress.

The Secretary of State gave the committee to understand that if the resolution were passed the President would reply that he was unable to comply on the ground that compliance "would be incompatible with the public interests."

Despite the Administration's attitude toward the Mexican situation, it is the purpose of the author, Representative Almey of Pennsylvania, to call it up in the House if the committee fails or refuses to act.

Following his observations on the Almey resolution, Mr. Bryan entered into a general discussion of the Mexican question, as correspondent. After reciting various alleged attempts to trap him into supplying divorce evidence Mrs. McKnight said finally that her husband sent a woman, posing as "Mrs. Long," a department store clerk, to take a room in her apartment, and suspecting a plot she engaged the janitor to sleep in the kitchen every night. On the night of the alleged misconduct "Mrs. Long" went out late, saying she was going to the drug store. Instead she called up McKnight, and between 3 and 4 A. M. detectives rushed into the apartment. They had sent the money to a banking house in Puebla, which wished to increase its note issue, and in order to do so had to increase its gold reserves. The transaction was merely one of a banking nature.

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He still seemed to have faith in Carranza and apparently believed that the revolutionary leader would in time solve the problem. Mr. Bryan coupled his statement about the progress of Carranza with one in which he hazarded the belief that Huerta was losing power and prestige as time advanced.

Mr. Bryan said that the Government is keeping a strict account of outrages committed by Americans and American property and that Mexico will be called on to settle when a stable government has been set up in the republic.

HUERTA PAYS OFF TROOPS.

Funds Believed to Have Been Ob-
tained by De in Lamas.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN.
MEXICO CITY, March 5.—The Government has evidently obtained money somewhere. Some of it probably came through the negotiations of Senor de Lamas, the Finance Minister, in foreign countries. The War Department sent out several million pesos to-day to pay the army at different places. It also instructed the Governors of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila to take up with cash the scrip they have issued for the expenses of the army.

ASSAILS U. S. ATTITUDE.

Paris "Temps" Says Colonial Policy
Has Been Adopted.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN.
PARIS, March 5.—The words of Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, in regard to the Benton affair in Mexico give the *Temps* an opportunity to discuss England and the Monroe Doctrine. In an editorial to-night the paper points out that the United States has not observed a negative side on the Monroe Doctrine. It has indulged in a world and colonial policy of which striking manifestations were the Spanish war, the capture of Cuba and the annexation of the Philippines, participation in the finances of Liberia and the Algeiras conference in regard to Morocco. "American public opinion," the *Temps* declares, "knew the intoxication of imperialism."

The *Temps* goes on to say that while the Washington Government maintains the exclusion of European intervention from American affairs it still allowed it to be understood that new massacres in Armenia would not be a matter of indifference to the United States.

The *Temps* construes Sir Edward Grey's words as meaning that if the United States claims exclusive guardianship over Central and South America the American Government must assume the obligation arising therefrom and that England will only recognize the Monroe Doctrine so far as the United States fully protects foreign interests in the Latin countries. The paper concludes by saying that Sir Edward Grey's words cannot fail to make the United States reflect on the dangers and responsibilities of its policy in regard to other American States.

The same paper also prints a two column interview with Senor Asconza, representative of the Mexican Constitutionalists in Europe, in which he says: "Throughout the country (Mexico) the humblest house has a portrait of Francisco Madero with a small lamp burning before it. Every town cheers when Gen. Carranza gains a decisive battle. One is now waiting for the arrival of four allegorical canons which have been ordered by the United States before beginning the attack. Gen. Carranza will be in Mexico city before the end of May."

Speaking of the killing of William S. Benton, Senor Asconza says "Benton was a friend of the Terrazas and the Cientifico party. He was regularly condemned to death for having threatened Gen. Villa. We treat foreigners like we do ladies."

In reply to the question if Gen. Carranza intended to rely on the United States, Senor Asconza replied that the United States has been admirable toward the Constitutionalists. They withdrew their legations from Mexico after Huerta's coup and have just refused to negotiate with the Huerta Government. "We would refuse to give a preferential commercial tariff to the United States and would refuse to lease Magdalena Bay to that country as a coaling station."

The *Temps* also prints an interview with an unnamed former partner of Gustave Madero, a brother of the late President, who saw Gen. Huerta previous to leaving Mexico. The person said that at Sir Lionel Corden, the British Minister at Mexico city, intended to propose at Washington, with the agreement of Gen. Huerta, that the latter should send the army and summon Congress to nominate a successor. The unnamed man said peace would follow the acceptance of this proposal within two months.

U. S. GOLD FOR MEXICO.

\$700,000 Shipment Made to Bank-
ing House in Puebla.

The financial district was aroused yesterday over a report that a banking house here had since the first of the year shipped to Mexico \$700,000 in United States gold coin on orders from the national house, which had been receiving payment by cable transfer from Germany. It was further stated that the consignments, which had all been in small amounts, had gone to the National Bank of Mexico, which was acting for the Huerta Government.

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